Savings Certificates (Vlll-issue), Kisan Vikas Patra, Public Provident Fund and 8% (taxable) Saving Bond. The Union Budget 2004-05 had also announced a deposit scheme for Senior Citizens offering an annual return of 9% which is now under operation through the post offices. At present the returns offered by the small savings schemes, except post office savings account are higher than the current average rate of inflation of 5.32% (as on 24.7.2004). Moreover, the effective return on these Shemes improves significantly if relevant tax benefits are taken into account.

(c) No, Sir.

.(d) and (e) Do not arise.

Kisan Credit Cards

1366. SHRI SURENDRA LATH: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) what was the target fixed for issue of Kisan Credit Cards to the farmers and how many cards have actually been issued during the last three years, till date;

(b) what is the target for the Commercial Banks and Co-operative Banks: and

(c) whether it is a fact that the percentage of achieving the target is much higher in case of Co-operative Banks than that of Commercial Banks?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINACE (SHRI S.S. PALANIMANICKAM): (a) to (c) The details of the target fixed for issue of Kisan Credit Cards (KCCs) and the KCCs issued, during the last three years, till date, as reported by Reserve Bank of India (RBI) and National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD) are indicated below:

(Number in Lakh)

Year	Coop. Banks		Reg. Rural Banks		Com. Banks		Total	
	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement	Target	Achievement
2001-02	60.00	54.36 (90.60%)	7.00	8.34 (119.14%)	33.00	3071 (93.06%)	100.00	93.41 (93.41%)
2002-03	65.00	45.79 (70.45%)	7.00	9.64 (137.71%)	28.00	27.00 (96.42%)	100.00	82.43 (82.43%)
2003-04	49.00	48.78 (99.55%)	8.00	12.74 (159.25%)	30.00	30.94 (103.13%)	87.00	92.46 (106.28%)
Total (2001-04	174.00 »	148.93 (85.59%)	22.00	30.72 (139.64%)	91.00	88.65 (97.41%)	287.00	268.30 (93.48%)

Bank-wise cumulative achievement of KCCs issued as on 31st May, 2004 was 4.19 crore as indicated below:

Co-operative Banks — — 2.47 crore KCCs (59%)

Regional Rural Banks — — 0.40 crore KCCs (9%)

Commercial Banks — — 1.32 crore KCCs (32%)